

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 /018 R

66603

DRAFTED BY: EUR:JHROUSE

APPROVED BY: EUR:JHROUSE

C-BSHINN

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035812

LIMDIS FOR HARTMAN AND SONNENFELDT

FOLL REPEAT STATE 035812 ACTION PARIS 16 FEB 75 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035812

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

SUBJECT: US-FRENCH PLANNING TALKS

REF: STATE 7308

1. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY PLANNING STAFF (CAP) OFFICIALS DE MONTBRIAL AND GERGORIN HAVE FOR SOME TIME EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PLANNING TALKS WITH LORD AND S/P. AT INITIAL BRIEF LORD-DEMONTBRIAL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER WE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO TALKS SOMETIME AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR WITH THE DATE TO BE SET LATER. AFTER FOLLOW-UP CONTACT IN JANUARY BY GERARD ERRERA, FRENCY EMBASSY CAP "CORRESPONDENT", WITH S/P DEPUTY BARTHOLOMEW WE HAVE NOW AGREED WITH CAP TO HOLD PLANNING TALKS IN PARIS APRIL 17-18 FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF APAG MEETING. WE ENVISAGE INFORMAL WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION WITHOUT EXCHANGE OF PAPERS, BUT WITH AGREED AGENDA. EACH SIDE WOULD KICK OFF DISCUSSION OF AGENDA TOPICS WITH BRIEF INFORMAL PRESENTATION. S/P WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY LORD AND BARTHOLOMEW AND POSSIBLY ONE OR TWO OTHERS.

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FYI: OUR PRELIMINARY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT CAP MAY WISH TO RESTRICT PARTICIPATION TO "PLANNERS" ON BOTH SIDES. WE DO NOT WISH AT THIS TIME TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO A REGULAR PATTERN OF PLANNING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRENCH SUCH AS WE HAVE WITH THE BRITISH, GERMANS AND OTHERS, OR TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER MEETINGS. A ONE-TIME MEETING IS ALL THAT IS BEING SET UP FOR NOW. END FYI

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2. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING AGENDA FURTHER WITH ERRERA ONCE HE HAS OBTAINED CAP'S VIEWS, WHICH WE HAVE REQUESTED, AND WHEN OUR OWN THINKING IS FURTHER ADVANCED. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON POSSIBLE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING, POINTS WE SHOULD STRESS IN TALKS THEMSELVES, AND POINTS FRENCH MAY WISH PARTICULARLY TO MAKE WITH US. FURTHER, WHILE WE HAD REASONABLY GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF CAP'S BUREAUCRATIC POSITION AND SUBSTANTIVE ROLE AND WORK FROM PAST EMBASSY REPORTING AND OUR OWN CONTACTS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE APPRAISAL OF CAP'S CURRENT STATUS WITHIN QUAI FOLLOWING RECENT EXTENSIVE HIGH-LEVEL PERSONNEL CHANGES. WE KNOW THAT CAP HAS DONE CONSIDERABLE WORK ON ENERGY AND HAVE RECENTLY LEARNED THAT IT WROTE PAPERS FOR THE FRENCH DEFENSE REVIEW. WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SUBJECTS CAP WORKS ON AND HOW IT FUNCTIONS IN THE QUAI VIS-A-VIS MINISTER AND BUREAUS, AND ITS EXTERNAL CONTACTS, PARTICULARLY WITH ELYSEE STAFF.

3. LORD AND BARTHOLOMEW (AND POSSIBLY ONE OTHER) WILL ARRIVE PARIS MORNING OF APRIL 14 FOR APAG ROYAUMONT MEETINGS WHICH BEGIN WITH DINNER THAT EVENING AND END WITH LUNCH HOSTED BY FRENCH AT QUAI APRIL 17. THEY WOULD LIKE TO PAY CALL ON AMBASSADOR, AND HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM AND OTHERS IN EMBASSY AFTERNOON OF 14 APRIL. THEY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY IDEAS RE FRENCH OFFICIALS ON WHOM THEY MIGHT CALL DURING WEEK IF APAG ARRANGEMENTS PERMIT.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY TENTATIVELY RESERVE FOUR SINGLES AT MAYFAIR FOR NIGHTS APRIL 17-19. (WE UNDERSTAND FRENCH WILL BE MAKING HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR APAG ATTENDEES NIGHTS APRIL 14-16.) WE WILL CONFIRM NEARER TO DATES OF
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, PLANNING MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE035812
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR:JHROUSE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750057-0035
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750237/aaaabhd.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: STATE 7308
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-FRENCH PLANNING TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, (LORD, WINSTON), (BARTHOLOMEW, REGINALD)
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006